

***Mentzelia leucophylla*** Brandegee (1899)**ASH MEADOWS BLAZINGSTAR****FAMILY:** *Loasaceae*, the stick-leaf family.**SYNONYMS:** *Mentzelia oreophila* var. (?)**STATUS:****Heritage Program SENSITIVE LIST, ranks: G1Q S1****USFWS/ESA:** LISTED THREATENED. **STATE OF NEVADA:** FULLY PROTECTED. **BLM:** Special Status Species. **USFS:** none. **NNNPS:** THREATENED.**POPULATION CENSUS:** 6 occurrences mapped at 1.0 km (0.6 mi) separation, OR 8 occurrences mapped at 0.16 km (0.1 mi) separation; total estimated individuals 358+, total estimated area 1.2+ ha (3.0+ ac). **TREND:** unknown.**IMPACTS AND MAJOR THREATS:** No summary available (see references).**INVENTORY EFFORT:** Surveys are largely complete, but a few occurrences may remain to be documented. Most recent entered survey 1986, average year of last survey 1966. **Years since last entered survey** (percent of mapped records at various survey ages): **11-20 yrs:** 25%; **21-30 yrs:** 37.5%; **31-50 yrs:** 25%; **51+ yrs or unknown:** 12.5%.**LAND MANAGEMENT** in decreasing predominance: U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U. S. Bureau of Land Management, private lands (?).**RANGE:** Nye County, Nevada. Endemic to the Ash Meadows area. Maximum range dimension 8.9 km (5.5 mi) excluding most disjunct record. **Type specimen** collected in Nye County.**ELEVATIONS RECORDED:** 2200-2350 feet (671-716 meters).**HABITAT:** Open, generally dry, hard, salt-crustured alkaline clay or sandy-clay soils on low bluffs, swales, flats, and drainages in shadscale vegetation surrounding spring and seep areas with *Atriplex confertifolia*, *Haplopappus acradenius*, *Enceliopsis nudicaulis corrugata*, *Astragalus phoenix*, etc.**PHENOLOGY:** flowering summer. Range of most frequent survey months: April-July.**LIFE-FORM AND HABIT:** biennial.**DESCRIPTION:** A biennial herb, up to 5 dm high. The leaves are densely covered with soft white hairs. Bright yellow flowers bloom from late May into September. Flowers open only for brief periods in late afternoon.**PHOTOGRAPHS:** Nevada Natural Heritage Program slide collection (1986-present) and files.**ILLUSTRATIONS:** Mozingo and Williams (1980).**OTHER GENERAL REFERENCES** (listed separately): Beatley (1976), Beatley (1977), U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service (1983).**SPECIFIC REFERENCES:**Brandegee, T. S. 1899. New species of western plants. *Botanical Gazette* 27: 444-457.Kruckeberg, A. R., and D. Rabinowitz. 1985. Biological aspects of endemism in higher plants. *Ecological Systems* 16: 447-479.Reveal, J. L. 1978. Status report on *Mentzelia leucophylla*. Portland, Oregon: U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service.**OF FURTHER INTEREST:** May represent a variant of *Mentzelia oreophila*.